

Looking back 50 over short years, these are a few of the things that stick in my mind about our class.

We started Kindergarten in 1945, the year the Second World War ended, and left school 13 years later in 1958 -- before Viet Nam, hippies, flower power, peace protesters, and the Beatles. It was at a time when television and Howdy Doody were replacing radio, Salk vaccine was discovered and polio would begin to be eradicated, and Sputnik was launched to circle the Earth.

I remember 6-man football games, Tom Keenen (our esteemed history teacher) jumping on his desk to make a point, holding round and square dances, sledding all winter in the Park (before they filled it in), game night at the school, our trip to New York City and struggling to raise the money to get us there, the county fair, Elvis, Dick Clark, Wolfman Jack, Halloween and the school grounds and town the morning after, hand-dipped ice cream sundaes from Diaryland, backyard vegetable gardens, the Red Mill, and ice skating to the strains of "The Old Lamp Lighter" and "Winter Wonderland."

A few quotes from the class stick out in my mind and they include:

In English class, when asked to explain a commotion around his desk,

Dick Spengler replied that he was “just a rose between two thorns.”

Again in English class, when asked to recite a passage from

Shakespeare, Ron Adams stood in the front of the room and quoted:

Friends, Romans and countrymen – lend me your ears. I need them for tea cup handles.

And, in music class, Mrs. Bartow was reviewing the previous lesson

and asked: Where does a body meet a body? The answer, as we all know, should have been – comin’ through the rye. But the answer she got was:

“At Van Rensselaer’s funeral home.”

We’ve lost a few good people along the way: Judy Parkhurst Pauley,

John Leyda, Terry Perkins, Dick Lecceardone, and Ron “Bud” West. They were part of us and we miss them.

I feel lucky to have grown up in a small, caring village, where everybody not only knew your name, they knew your father's and grandfather's names - and phone numbers - and felt free to use them. It didn't seem like a good thing then.

All in all, it was a good time.